



Video Transcription
Commissioner of Education Chris Nicastro
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Hello. I'm Chris Nicastro, commissioner of education for the state of Missouri. Thanks for watching this month's Top 10 by 20 UPDATE.

The State Board of Education is hosting a series of public hearings on the progress of education standards related to House Bill 1490. The first hearing took place last month, with more to follow. If you can't attend, please send us your comments through email or fill out our survey on our website with your comments on the Missouri Learning Standards.

Eight groups comprised of active classroom teachers and parents of school-aged children from all over Missouri are in the process of reviewing the Missouri Learning Standards. The Department and the State Board expect high standards to emerge when the work is finished next year. Our children deserve nothing less as we prepare them for college and careers. Please visit our website for more information on future public hearing times and dates.

Missouri received good news last month when the U.S. Department of Education approved the one year extension of the state's No Child Left Behind waiver. The extension gives the state more flexibility and allows us to use our own accountability system. Missouri has set ambitious goals and is focusing on continuous improvement in our schools. The waiver means districts have more flexibility with their Title 1 funds and that parents can be confident that schools are preparing students for college and careers.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Jessica Karll from Discovery Ridge Elementary School in the Wentzville School District for being named a Milken Award winner. The announcement, which included a \$25,000 cash award, came during a surprise assembly last month. The Milken Award is one of the most prestigious honors a teacher can receive. We are proud of Jessica and all she does for her students. Preparing, developing and supporting effective educators is one of the primary goals of the Top 10 by 20 initiative. Teachers like Jessica help make this goal a reality.

I hope everyone is having a great school year. Please remember to follow the Department on Twitter and like us on Facebook to stay updated on the latest education news from across the state. Thanks for everything you do to help Missouri's children reach the Top 10 by 20.